

## CLAIMS

1. A method for providing communication in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the method comprising:

broadcasting at least one discovery message to at least one of a plurality of access points;

receiving a response from said at least one of a plurality of access points, said response reporting a presence of at least one access device located within a coverage area of said at least one of a plurality of access points; and

requesting from said at least one of a plurality of access points, a status of said at least one access device located within a coverage area of said at least one of a plurality of access points.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said requesting further comprises sending at least one status request message to said at least one of a plurality of access points within whose coverage area said at least one access device is located.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising, receiving from said at least one of a plurality of access points within whose coverage area said at least one access device is located, at least one status reply message indicating a status of said at least one of a plurality of access devices.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one discovery message, said at least one status request message and said at least one status reply message is a messaging protocol message.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said broadcasting further comprising broadcasting said discovery message from one of a server, a switch and at least one of said access points.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said broadcasting further comprises broadcasting said discovery message only to access points located in a particular subnetwork.

7. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having at least one code section for providing communication in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the at least one code section executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps comprising:

broadcasting at least one discovery message to at least one of a plurality of access points;

receiving a response from said at least one of a plurality of access points, said response reporting a presence of at least one access device located within a coverage area of said at least one of a plurality of access points; and

requesting from said at least one of a plurality of access points, a status of said at least one access device located within a coverage area of said at least one of a plurality of access points.

8. The machine-readable storage according to claim 7, wherein said requesting code further comprises code for sending at least one status request message to said at least one of a plurality of access points within whose coverage area said at least one access device is located.

9. The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, further comprising, code for receiving from said at least one of a plurality of access points within whose coverage area said at least one access device is located, at least one status reply message indicating a status of said at least one of a plurality of access devices.

10. The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said at least one discovery message, said at least one status request message and said at least one status reply message is a messaging protocol message.

11. The machine-readable storage according to claim 7, wherein said broadcasting code further comprises code for broadcasting said discovery message from one of a server, a switch and at least one of said access points.

12. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, wherein said broadcasting code further comprises code for broadcasting said discovery message only to access points located in a particular subnetwork.

13. A system for providing communication in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the system comprising:

at least one broadcaster adapted to broadcast at least one discovery message to at least one of a plurality of access points;

at least one receiver adapted to receive a response from said at least one of a plurality of access points, said response reporting a presence of at least one access device located within a coverage area of said at least one of a plurality of access points; and

a requester adapted to request from said at least one of a plurality of access points, a status of said at least one access device located within a coverage area of said at least one of a plurality of access points.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein said requester further comprises a sender adapted to send at least one status request message to said at least one of a plurality of access points within whose coverage area said at least one access device is located.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein said at least one receiver is adapted to receive from said at least one of a plurality of access points within whose coverage area said at least one access device is located, at least one status reply message indicating a status of said at least one of a plurality of access devices.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein said at least one discovery message, said at least one status request message and said at least one status reply message is a messaging protocol message.

17. The system according to claim 13, wherein said at least one broadcaster is further adapted to broadcast said discovery message from one of a server, a switch and at least one of said access points.

18. The system according to claim 17, wherein said broadcaster is further adapted to broadcast said discovery message only to access points located in a particular subnetwork.